

NURSING ECHOES.

We are glad to note that the Red Cross Society, in sending out a Relief Party to Greece last Wednesday, included three trained nurses, Miss Maud Bullock (Sister in Charge), Miss Honor McCormac (Sister Matthew, St. Bartholomew's Hospital), and Miss Frances Latham.

We hear from many sources that the shortage of nurses, and suitable candidates for training as such, is becoming a very serious question, especially throughout the Poor Law Service and District Nursing Service. Wider opportunities of employment for educated women—disappointment with the refusal so far of the Government to redress the educational and economic disabilities of nurses—and the charms of pastures new through emigration—are in part responsible for the lack of supply; but, no doubt, if institution and district nurses were better paid things might improve. Life is fuller in many ways than in the past and much more costly, and the mean salaries generally offered by persons supplying nursing to the poor, make it impossible for young women to share in the activities, intellectual and physical, which every man and woman who can afford it expects to enjoy in these days. The old spirit of complaisant acquiescence with "this condition of life" whatever it may be, is a thing of the past. Women have found that the world is good, and they want to enjoy it.

The decision arrived at and the arguments advanced by the City of London Board of Guardians at last week's meeting are highly creditable to them. They adopted the report from the Workhouse and Infirmary Management Committee with regard to a scheme they had prepared for the better training of nurses in the Infirmary, in which there was a proposal to add an additional year to the period for training nurses, for the purpose of securing instruction in electro-therapeutics, massage, and the Nauheim treatment, and also outside training in surgical nursing. In their lengthy report the Committee entered into interesting details as to the various arrangements which would be necessary under the scheme, which, they pointed out, to be efficiently carried on would entail the appointment of four extra probationers and also the extension of the training period from three to four years. We agree with those guardians who argued that the importance of the question was not whether

after four years enforced training the nurses stayed on in the service of the Guardians, but that their training should be efficient, and that wherever they went their work should be a credit to the Board.

The uniform of the trained nurse is put to strange uses nowadays, but we have never, until recently, seen it pressed into the service of an itinerant organ grinder to bring showers of coppers into the cap handed round by his partner. The other day, in the medical quarter of the West End, everybody was "out of windows" to see eight little marionettes gyrating on the top of a grinding organ; nearer inspection showed that the male figures were a sailor, a soldier in khaki, a policeman, and a postman, and in the arms of each was a nurse in indoor, or outdoor uniform, revolving at top speed, or dancing a reel to a merry jingle on the organ. What next?

The Berwick Burns Club propose to erect a monument to Jessie Lewars, who nursed Robert Burns through his last lingering illness. She lies buried at Dumfries, within a stone's throw of Burns's mausoleum. She was a constant visitor at his humble home, and assisted Mrs. Burns in the household, besides nursing the dying poet. With a heart full of gratitude for her ministrations he wrote "Oh, wert thou in the cauld blast," a song to which Mendelssohn composed the exquisite melody that now accompanies it. This song was a touching outburst of gratitude for Jessie Lewars' ceaseless attention to Burns, and was among the last efforts of the poet's life.

A committee meeting of the Nurses' Insurance Society of Ireland was held at their office, 29, Gardiner's Place, Dublin, on March 11th, when the following resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously:—

"(1) That, in the opinion of the members of the Nurses' Insurance Society of Ireland, now numbering over 600, the present proposal to pay a fee of 5s. to a poor law maternity nurse, provided she conducts a case without the attendance of a doctor, is open to grave abuse. Thus it is proposed to pay the nurse in a simple confinement case which can be conducted safely by herself, but she must forfeit her fee in a difficult and anxious case which requires the presence of a medical man, and where delay in doing so may endanger the life of the patient."

"(2) That the maternity nursing service should be constituted a State service, that nurses so employed should be paid a proper

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